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CITE TDCSDB-315/00004-69

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DIST 2 January 1969

COUNTRY - WEST GERMANY/EAST GERMANY/EAST BERLIN

DOI - 21 DECEMBER 1968

SUBJECT - WEST GERMAN OFFER TO EXCHANGE SOVIET SPY HEINZ FELFE  
FOR FORMER WEST GERMAN AGENTS NOW IN EAST GERMAN  
PRISONS

ACQ - GERMANY/21 DECEMBER 1968/ OGA-844

SOURCE - MEDIUM-LEVEL WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL FROM A  
WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INVOLVED IN PRISONER EXCHANGE  
ACTIVITIES. SOURCE HAS AN EXTENSIVE RECORD OF RELIABLE RE-  
PORTING ON THIS TOPIC.

1. //FIELD COMMENT - IN RECENT WEEKS, NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN  
EAST AND WEST GERMANY ON THE EXCHANGE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS  
HAVE BEEN AT A STANDSTILL BECAUSE OF EAST GERMANY'S DEMAND THAT  
CONVICTED SPY HEINZ FELFE BE RELEASED BEFORE ADDITIONAL PRISONER  
EXCHANGES ARE NEGOTIATED. SEE TDCSDB-315/03669-68., TDCSDB-315/04233-68

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AND TDCSDB-315/04257-68. THE ONLY WEST GERMAN KNOWN RECENTLY TO HAVE BEEN RELEASED IS WERNER PANKOW, FORMER AGENT OF THE WEST GERMAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (BND), WHO WAS RANSOMED ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS BY THE ALL-GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY IN EARLY DECEMBER 1968 ACCORDING TO TDCSDB-315/04626-68. NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING THE EXCHANGE OF CHILDREN HAVE CONTINUED.)

2. IN AN ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THE CURRENT IMPASSE ON PRISONER EXCHANGES, THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAS OFFERED TO EXCHANGE FELFE FOR A NUMBER OF FORMER BND AGENTS WHO ARE NOW SERVING LONG TERMS IN EAST GERMAN PRISONS. ON 21 DECEMBER 1968, WEST GERMAN PRISONER-EXCHANGE NEGOTIATOR LUDWIG REHLINGER GAVE WEST BERLIN PRISONER-EXCHANGE NEGOTIATOR JUERGEN STANGE A LIST OF PRISONERS FOR WHOM THE WEST GERMANS ARE WILLING TO EXCHANGE FELFE. STANGE, IN TURN, WAS TO PASS THE LIST TO HIS EAST GERMAN COUNTERPART, ATTORNEY WOLFGANG VOGEL.

3. THE WEST GERMANS EXPECT THAT EAST GERMANY WILL COUNTER WITH A REVISED LIST, DELETING SOME NAMES AND ADDING OTHERS. REHLINGER HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO BARGAIN FOR THE RELEASE OF THE LARGEST POSSIBLE NUMBER OF WEST GERMANS BEFORE AGREEING TO FELFE'S RELEASE. THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE MORE THAN

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4. FIELD DISSEM: AMEMBASSY/BONN, USBER.

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